

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on July 6, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 2, 4, 6-9 and 13-15, added new claims 17-24 and cancelled claim 1 without prejudice. Claims 2 and 4 are the independent claims, and claims 2-10, 13-15 and 17-24 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant wishes to express appreciation to the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-10 and 13-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 2 and 4 have been rewritten in independent form and claims 6-9 and 13-15 have been amended to depend from claim 2. Claims 2-10 and 13-15 are therefore allowable, and it is respectfully requested that the objection to these claims as dependent from a rejected claim be withdrawn.

Newly added claims 17-24 depend from claim 4, which is allowable for at least the above reasons.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over the combination of *Matsumoto et al.* (US 6,272,332 B1) in view of *Keeler et al.* (US 6,502,130 B1) and further in view of *Bowman-Amuah* (US 6,542,593 B1). This rejection is moot in light of the amendment.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

AMENDMENT

10/050,135

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



October 4, 2006
Date

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